

and Flicker) "Them thar's Bullbats flopping over the water. We used to find plenty of their eggs but no Whipper-will's eggs. Reckon the Whipper-will's the old he-un and the Bullbat's the she-un, for I never heard the Bullbat sing." The local names of the Spotted Sandpiper and Green Heron followed but are too fearfully expressive for these pages. We had nearly exhausted the list of some forty species which he asserted was all that nested thereabout, some few of which we both knew by the same names, but—"Mockingbird? Yes-sir, we got *two* kinds, the English and the French Mockingbirds. Oh yes dey's both Mockers shore, but the English's the best." The last remark deserves more than a smile when one discovers that this title designates the Southern Mocker, knowing that it ranks above the Brown Thrasher as a songster. Truly the early settlers, from whom this and many other of the local names originated, thought the word "English" donated something a little superior to that of "French." I also heard the Brown Thrasher called "Red" and "Rusty Mockingbirds."

FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Pa.*

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## EDITORIAL.

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With the completion of the October number, Professor Lynds Jones who has so ably conducted the WILSON BULLETIN for the past seven years, retires from the editorial chair, and the writer assumes the management for the current year. It will be continued as near as possible on the same lines as heretofore. It is essentially an outdoor bird students' journal, appealing for support to no particular faction or hobby, nor to state or sectional pride, but rather to that growing body of everyday bird lovers. The BULLETIN has survived scores of more or less pretentious ornithological periodicals. It has seldom failed to give more than value received. To many of its subscribers it has been a training school, teaching honest, painstaking, persevering observation, accuracy and fluency in description, which has resulted in increasing experience and proficiency in the field selected, and the accumulation

of valuable data without which no great principle can be involved. It has also encouraged specialism and co-operative study as most certain to give satisfactory results, holding that no one person can be fully competent to study a bird from every standpoint and individually obtain complete knowledge of its life. To those in sympathy with the work and purposes of the Chapter, we appeal for aid and encouragement. This is not a money making venture, but it is kept in existence by the pride and sacrifice of the members. Like all scientific journals, back numbers increase in value as time passes and no ornithological library is now complete without a file of the publications of the WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CHAPTER.

As formerly the membership dues should be sent to the Treasurer—Prof. Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio, and applications for membership to the President—Reuben M. Strong, Cambridge, Mass., but subscriptions, exchanges, manuscript, and other business communications should be addressed to the Editor—Frank L. Burns, Berwyn, Penna.

In another page we publish a communication from Mr. Benj. T. Gault, and would be pleased to hear from any of our readers pertinent to the suggestions he has offered and in due time the additional notes, comments and corrections, of which we already have a few, will be placed in the form of a supplement to be placed inside the covers of BULLETIN No. 31, or published in some future number of General Notes, according to the wishes of the readers. In connection with the above we would enquire whether anyone has discovered the adult Flicker in the act of removing the excrement of the young while in the nest cavity; and to those who may have examined one or more broods in the nest, we would be pleased to know in what condition the nest was found. Under the head of Young the statement was made that the parent bird does not clean the nest. This is undoubtedly too broad an assertion as the writer has found some nests with the young singularly clean while other cavities were far from cleanly. Several nests of the Downy Woodpecker containing large young were examined and found to be perfectly clean. This subject will bear further investigation.

Many of the old *Ornithologist and Oologist* readers will recognize a familiar pen in our leading article. Mr. Walter Hoxie contributed frequently to that magazine in its most palmy days. We hope to catch him in a reminiscent mood soon and have him write of hunters and ornithologists now dead but not wholly forgotten, and of incidents and adventures long past, away back when the Passenger Pigeon was trapped and the Labrador Duck shot to eat.

Plans for the future numbers have scarcely been formulated, but we can pronounce something of interest for every issue. Professor Lynds Jones and others will continue the "Bird Horizon"; an interesting episode in the life of Alexander Wilson which has only been touched upon previously, will be given; and articles and notes of general interest contributed by others of our members and subscribers, will serve to maintain the high standard set by our predecessor.

It is small wonder that Gmelin, Wilson, and a few others of our earlier Ornithologists should have failed to discover the dichromatic state of the plumage of the Screech Owl, but regarding the grey phase as totally distinct from the red phase and naming accordingly; knowing so little of its life history as they did; but it is just a little queer that Bonaparte, Audubon, Nuttall and Cassin should have made almost as great a mistake in correcting their predecessors, for they believed the grey plumaged bird to be the adult and the bird in the red or rufous plumage the young; and it is only within the present generation that the full truth has been known. At this date how many know the predominating color and proportion of one to the other in a given locality? And whether the males are more given to the red or grey coloration than the females, or vice versa? Let every reader sit down and copy off a list with locality, of the reds, greys, and intermediate grades captured, and observed, as far as possible subdividing them as to sex and age—giving males and females, adults and young under each phase of plumage. It ought to make an interesting list as all are familiar with our little Screech Owl, and the editor will be glad to publish the results in tabulated form in the next BULLETIN.

It is but fair to warn the reader that the honors of editorship are not of our seeking, that it can be but an incident of a not a unbusy life, and that the position is an unfamiliar one; we do know that no magazine can be successfully conducted without an abundance of manuscript to select from when making up a copy for the printer. It is also necessary in this instance that it should be written by bird lovers, or by persons sufficiently observant and in positions to give unbiased statements of value to the Ornithological world. We want to hear from the Ornithologists because they are engaged in perfecting the science of bird sand always have something to say. We want to hear from the Oologists because they have done more to popularize the study in the past than any other class, and are a persistent, hardworking and observant body. We want to hear from the Audubonists because they are now continuing on a higher plane the work the Oologists began, and are very much in earnest. This shall continue to be the neutral ground where all shall meet on equal terms.

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### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

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*The Bittern*, edited and published bi-monthly by Glen M. Hawthorn, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is a small but neat periodical. The August number contains articles by Dr. Morris Gibbs.

*The Petrel* makes its initial bow at the beginning of the century. The first number is 16 pages and cover, well edited and presents a very good appearance. It contains articles of varying length and merit by such well-known writers as James J. Carroll, William L. Kells, Walton S. Mitchell, Ellis F. Hadley, and others. It is edited by John William Martin at Palestine, Oregon.

*American Ornithology*, published monthly by Charles K. Reed, Worcester, Mass. is somewhat different from the usual bird magazines. It is proposed to give the life histories of several species each month. The February number contains the